

IN THE BOAT

BY ROBIN GREY

CHAPTER VI.

From the drawing room as they ascended the stairs came a pleasant clatter of tenebris, and when they entered they found the family assembled. Mary was pouring out tea, Dr. Stelling, wonderful to relate, had found time to join the cozy circle, Mrs. Stelling sat with her usual pile of clothing for the poor hands her.

There was a cheerful little family ebullition.

"Oh, here you are!" "Well?" "What have you done, Madge?"

"A cup of tea first, in mercy!" cried Marguerite, sinking on to a hearth-rug and leaning aside her head.

Five o'clock tea is the time for chatting. All Marguerite's adventures were related, with comments and a surmises from Bernard.

"And so Mr. Martineau will let me know when he finds the will," she concluded. "And now I must tell you the bright suggestion which Bruno has just made. One does occasionally get flashes of inspiration, even from a great heart."

"Do you want a flash of hot tea on your nose?" demanded Bernard, who was towering above her.

She laughingly averted her face, holding up her little hands.

The suggestion of advertising in the local papers met with general approval and it was decided that Bernard should insert the advertisement, without consulting Mr. Martineau.

"By the way," he said, "what sort of a fellow is Martineau? I never used to know a Martineau. A tall fellow with a fair complexion and slow way of talking."

"Yes, that is very like this man," said Marguerite. "He was nice to talk to. He gave you the idea that he possessed a great deal of character, but I was sometimes not sure whether he

letter, and Marguerite read it over her shoulder.

"Lincoln's Inn, Tuesday, Bernard Selwyn Stelling, Esq."

"Sir—We have to announce to you the death of Miss Letitia Clara Selwyn of Selwyn Court, Hants, on the 8th inst., and to inform you that, with the exception of several legacies to old friends and servants, you inherit the whole of her personal and landed property, and all her money, invested in securities which represent an annual income of about twenty thousand pounds, together with the estate and house of Selwyn Court, the whole being bequeathed to you on the sole condition that you add the surname of Selwyn Stelling Selwyn."

"We have the honor, sir, to remain, your obedient servants,"

"Blade & Skinner, Solicitors."

The silence in the drawing room lasted for many minutes. At last Bernard roused himself.

"What a coward I am," he said, with a laugh. "To be so upset. Mary, give me that paper. Pater, do you think it's a genuine thing?"

"It certainly seems so," answered the doctor, glancing at the paper. "I remember once that Blade & Skinner were Miss Selwyn's solicitors. It must be genuine."

"I always said she would do something for you, Bernard, my darling!" said his mother, the tears rolling down her cheeks.

"Mother—my beloved old mother, don't cry," pleaded Bernard, now himself again. "It was a knock-down kind of announcement, wasn't it? But I look like a fool. There is no need to cry. If this letter be true, this is your last week in this dingy hole! A fortnight more and you're where? In El Dorado I think."

The question had come.

"Marguerite," he caught her in his

written a few short notes I might have kept my money in my pocket. What does it matter to me who I am? I only know that I shall never be Bernard's wife!"

CHAPTER VII.

When the door closed upon Marguerite Selwyn, as she left the lawyer's office in Lance Lane, Valdene Martineau walked up to it and turned the key in the lock. Then he went back to the table, sank down in the large armchair, leaned his arms on the blotting paper which covered the desk, and dropped his head upon them.

What was there in Marguerite's artless narrative that could have so deeply shaken the habitual composure of this man of the world?

The bowed head did not stir for upwards of half an hour. Valdene Martineau was alone in the company of a thousand evil thoughts, the phantoms of a discredited past.

Presently he raised his head, the powerful hand which lay on the desk was clenched, and through his set lips came one word:

"Traitor!"

He pushed back his chair, and began to pace the room as if rest were impossible to him.

"That she should have come to me, of all men in the world!" he said aloud. "Talk of poetical justice—talk of the irony of fate! Ye gods, that she should come to me for her rights."

There was a pause. He went to the window and gazed blankly out, then struck the woodwork with a force that shook it.

"I can't do it," he muttered between his clenched teeth—"no man could do it! But I'll have my revenge on him," he cried, with a sudden inspiration, and, darting back to the desk, he seized a pen and began to write:

Sir—Three years and six months ago, when I was a penniless adventurer, you tempted me, and I fell. It may be as well that I recall to you now the exact terms of the conspiracy. You informed me that you had a niece— orphan daughter of your only sister. This child was heiress to an enormous fortune, and you were her sole guardian. By the terms of her father's will you were to have entire control over her during her minority, and if she married against your wish before she attained the age of 21, the whole of her money came to you. Your suggestion to me was that I should go through the form of marriage with your niece, apparently without your sanction, in order to enable you to claim the money due to you in that case. You represented to me that your niece was mad—hopelessly out of her mind—and that on that account I should do her no harm by going through this form, as nobody else would ever be likely to marry her. There could be, you represented, no difficulty in the matter, as the young lady in question was to all appearance quite sane and perfectly docile and submissive. At the church door my part of the contract was to cease. You undertook to provide for her future; all I had to do was to go through the marriage ceremony. For this service you offered me a bribe that dazzled me. I was half mad with difficulties, penniless, in debt, I urged, however, that the step you wished me to take would hamper my future, as I could not ask any other woman to be my wife so long as this poor girl lived. This was just what you wanted to secure my silence, so long as I kept secret the fact of the conspiracy, you kept secret the fact of my marriage. I was to sign a false name in the register, and there would be nothing to witness against me—nothing to damage my future career.

(To be continued.)

SERUM FROM SERPENTS

said to be an Absolute Cure for Hitherto Incurable Leprosy.

New Orleans Special to New York Tribune. Dr. J. B. Dyar, a well-known physician and an expert on leprosy, has reached some remarkable results regarding that terrible disease, and has effected two positive cures. The antidote to the leprosy poison Dr. Dyar found in a serum compounded by Dr. Calmette, a French chemist. The serum was made by the French man from the venom of serpents and was designed solely as a cure for snake poison, which it did accomplish. The serum is now in wide use in India. Dr. Dyar visited Dr. Calmette's laboratory in Paris, and brought away some of the serum, having even then a vague idea of his recent discovery. It appears that among the traditions of the leprosy colony in Louisiana was one that several lepers who had been bitten by venomous snakes were cured. Dr. Dyar applied the serum to five cases of leprosy in New Orleans, and in two of the cases absolute cures were effected. In two other cases there was a marked improvement, and the cases were lost sight of, so that the final result was not known. In the fifth case the man's system proved repellent to the poison, and the change was for the worse rather than the better. Dr. Dyar has been consulted. It is reported by the United States government as to the establishment of a national leprosy hospital, to which all the lepers of Louisiana and other states will be sent.

What the Minister Said

Jingo—"What did the minister say when the plate came up?" Ringo—"He said he wouldn't mind so much if the buttons were all alike."—Syracuse Herald.

The strongest sentiment of the Turk is his reverence for his mother. He always stands in her presence until invited to sit down—a compliment he pays to no one else.

Capt. A. B. Thomas Dead.

Waco, Tex., Dec. 6.—Capt. A. B. Thomas will be buried to-day with Masonic honors. He will also be escorted to his grave by Confederate veterans, as he was a gallant soldier in the southern army and was in more than twenty of the bloodiest battles of the civil war, in two of which he was severely wounded. Capt. Thomas died of morphine poison at an early hour yesterday morning, having lingered for fifteen hours after taking the fatal dose.

He left a letter to his friend W. E. Cowens, explaining why he took the drug, giving his reasons for committing suicide. About two years ago he was one of the parties in a thrilling and fatal affray occurring on Webster street, in which his friend and neighbor, F. J. Penn, was slain. The combat arose about a small dog, the property of Penn, which attacked Thomas as he was passing Penn's house, whereupon Thomas struck the dog and the fight commenced.

It was a fearful struggle, in which a dirk, a sword cane and a bludge of wood figured. Both the men were injured. Penn dying in a few minutes from stab wounds in his throat and side. The two men were remarkable for bravery. They were both Confederate soldiers, and up to the time of the fatal encounter were warm friends, residing about two blocks apart and daily associating together. Penn was buried with the honors of the Confederate camp, and to-day his antagonist will be followed to his grave by the same veterans.

The grand jury returned an indictment against Thomas in connection with the killing of Penn, and one verdict having been set aside, the case was about to come up again in Judge Scott's court. In his letter to his friend, Mr. Cowens, Thomas referred to the homicide in language of deep regret, declaring that the fight took place, and claiming, as he did on trial that it was purely self-defense. He was a great sufferer from an incurable malady and was sentenced to taking small doses of morphine to ease his pain, and until the letter was found the presumption was that he had merely taken an overdose. The letter settled the question of suicide, and the justice holding the inquest decided accordingly. Thomas was a retail grocer, his place of business being on Third street under the Odd Fellows' temple.

When the clerk opened the door Monday morning he found Thomas in a comatose condition and the doctors continued with him to the last, succeeding in prolonging his existence, but failing to entirely neutralize the poison, and his death took place at 120 yesterday morning. He presents, in his coffin, a decidedly military appearance, having a high brow and large moustache. He is as white as marble, which causes his battle scars to show in very distinct relief.

The case against Capt. Thomas, in which he is charged by indictment with killing F. J. Penn, will be called next Thursday in Judge Scott's court, that day having been appointed for the trial. When it is called County Attorney Thomas will suggest the death of the defendant, whereupon the proceedings will be finally dismissed.

Justice Davis, who held the inquest, has written to the relatives who reside in a distant state, and in the meantime the property of deceased will be in the hands of his friends.

Henry Robertson was convicted of burglary at Houston the other day.

The bank of Cornell, Ill., was robbed a few nights ago.

To Improve Schools.

Hillside, Tex., Dec. 6.—The Hill county public school teachers have been systematically to work up the public schools of the county. The plan they have adopted is to hold one or two mass meetings a week at the different schoolhouses over the county at which educational speeches are made by Prof. T. S. Cox of this city or by some leading citizen who is interested in educational work. At these meetings funds are raised to provide libraries, maps, charts or to make repairs on buildings. Meetings have been held at Lakewood, Massey, Huron, Lovelace and one or two other points with gratifying results. The attendance in each instance has been large and good funds were raised. It is expected in this way to enlist the interest of all citizens and school patrons in school work in order to increase the attendance in the schools and to stimulate the students.

Mrs. Bailey fell and seriously injured herself at Paris the other night.

Remains Identified.

Texarkana, Tex., Dec. 6.—The parents of the unknown man who was run over and killed by a train on the Cotton Belt railroad a few days ago have been identified at Bettie, Tex. They saw a description of the dead man and came here just before the body was buried. The deceased was fully identified and his name given as Samuel Johnson. The relatives who came to Texarkana for the purpose of inspecting the remains stated that Johnson was a mute.

Good Roads Convention.

Paris, Tex., Dec. 6.—The Good Roads convention, under the auspices of the Interstate Good Roads association, met at the court house yesterday morning at 10 o'clock. Representatives were present from Red River, Hunt, Kaufman, Fannin and other counties. Gen. E. G. Harrison of New Jersey, a road expert, who is in the employ of the United States government, was present and made a talk on the methods of building roads, prefacing his remarks with an explanation of how the bureau of roads inquiry came to be established in the agricultural department. He contended that the building of good roads was more essential than the erecting of fine court houses and public buildings, and that stone and brick should be used in their construction. It was not necessary that the stone with which to build should be found along the road. In some of the eastern states stone was being hauled 200 or 300 miles, and in the end the benefit to the farmers and to the towns would be greater than the cost, even if the stone had to be hauled a distance of 500 miles. To have good roads it was necessary to have dry roads. The subject of drainage was discussed at length and the different characters of soil explained, some being more percolative than others, which required different methods. In muddy places it was suggested that a V-shaped ditch in the center of the road filled up with rubbish or blocks of wood and covered over would afford a good remedy, as wherever there is a vacuum the water will run, the atmospheric pressure causing the earth to dry out. A number of questions were propounded by road overseers and farmers present and were answered. The convention adjourned at noon, and at 2 p. m. a sample piece of road was constructed a mile south of town by the county tending the work and explaining it as it progressed.

After Cotton Thieves.

Corleanna, Tex., Dec. 5.—Farmers in this county have been greatly annoyed and put to no little loss during the present cotton season by cotton thieves who have been stealing cotton that was baled as well as cotton not even ginned. Many complaints have been made of losses sustained, but up to yesterday no arrests have been made.

Several days ago a farmer named Campbell of the Roane neighborhood reported to City Marshal Cole that during the night previous about a half bale of unginned cotton had been stolen from a pen in his field, and asked that the officers keep a lookout and try to catch the thief. The ginsers in the city were also notified and requested to keep a watch.

Yesterday morning a party appeared at one of the gins with a load of seed cotton which he endeavored to sell, but the ginsers declined to buy it and the man hauled it from one gin to another trying to sell it until the officers got on and notified Campbell by telephone. A son of Campbell came to the city at once and made complaint and the party was arrested and turned over to the county authorities.

Confederate Veterans.

Denton, Tex., Dec. 5.—The regular meeting of the United Confederate Veterans was held Sunday afternoon in Youm hall. After the routine business was transacted a joint social session was held with the Daughters of the Confederacy, at which the matter of giving an entertainment during Christmas week for the Confederate charity fund was discussed. The matter was not fully decided, but was left to the ladies to take whatever action they desired.

Charter Filed.

Austin, Tex., Dec. 5.—The charter of the Colorado, Texas and Mexican Railroad company was filed in the secretary of state's office yesterday. The capital stock is \$200,000, being \$1000 per mile. The principal office is at Abilene. The road is to begin at or near Haskell in Haskell county and is to run to Llano in Llano county, passing through Haskell, Jones, Taylor, Callahan, Runnels, Coleman, McCulloch, San Saba, Mason and Llano counties.

The board of directors consists of George R. Carr of Baltimore, Md.; W. C. Merritt of Wyoming county, Pennsylvania; J. S. Doe of Columbus, O.; M. R. Locke, J. M. Daugherty, H. Parramore, R. C. Anderson, C. N. Merchant and Fred Cockrell of Taylor county, Texas.

Four steamers loaded with coffee from Santos have been quarantined at New York.

Bonds Not Registered.

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 5.—City Clerk Catlin returned from Austin without being able to have the recent \$50,000 bond issue registered. The comptroller refused to register the bonds on the ground that the city election to ratify them had not been held according to law. The mayor failed to post a notice in each precinct twenty days prior to the date of the election, as required by law, and the attorney general ruled that the issue was invalid. Another election will be held.

San Antonio Farmers Meet.

Bonham, Tex., Dec. 4.—The Fannin County Fruit and Vegetable Growers' association met in the county court-room Saturday afternoon, pursuant to the agreement at the last meeting. A large attendance was present, farmers and fruit growers from all over the county being on hand.

The meeting was called to order at 2 p. m. by Temporary President High, and the report of the last meeting was read and approved. The association then got down to business and proceeded to effect a permanent organization and to elect officers.

The following officers were the choice of the association: Charles Hill, president; Dr. John Cunningham, vice president; Benjamin Smith, secretary; Judge J. M. Lusk, treasurer.

After the officers had been elected several pointed talks were made before the association and were well received. The object of this most worthy association is to encourage the more extensive raising of fruit and vegetables in this county, and to secure reduced rates on all products shipped to other points.

Mr. Smith, secretary, has already received a number of communications from different railroads and express companies offering to quote the association reduced rates on shipments, and a number of individuals from different parts of the state have written very encouraging letters, expressing a desire to see the movement meet with success. The farmers of Fannin county have been made to see during the past year or so that the practice of diversification is essential to success at farming, and they are very enthusiastic over the meeting and its prospects. The meeting Saturday was a decided success, and the organization starts out with the most flattering prospects.

The next meeting will be held in this city Saturday, Dec. 16, and will be extensively advertised all over the county, and a large number of new members are expected to enroll before that time.

Water for Irrigation.

Waco, Tex., Dec. 4.—Col. W. C. Rodgers of New Mexico has been traveling over Texas, looking into the prospect of water for irrigation, and he says opportunities are offered which will make many fortunes in the future, when laws are passed by which rights in irrigation will be protected and privileges afforded under the state law. He found a considerable area already under irrigation, and says private ventures in this line are succeeding in all parts of the state. He called attention to the failure of persons making dams across rivers and streams to provide fish-ways, and he says that will provide a serious fault unless it is remedied before the damming of rivers becomes general.

It is absolutely necessary to let the fish have means of passing up and down the streams, and to limit them in that respect would cut off a large amount of young fish and aid in reducing fish life in the state.

Col. Rodgers said: "I think there must be 500,000 acres of land in Texas submerged by the artificial lake makers, and it seems to me that eventually the process of creating large bodies of water must necessarily influence the climate and cause a larger and more regular rainfall. Instead of waiting for the winds to blow vapors from the distant ocean, mista will be created in the interior of the state and will form clouds and produce the moisture which the land needs and which is the only need of Texas soil. It is the richest country I ever saw, considered as a whole, and when the storm water is impounded and the rivers regulated it will be a garden state of the earth."

Trouble at Cypress.

Houston, Tex., Dec. 4.—Yesterday evening a rather meager report was received here from Cypress, twenty-five miles from here, to the effect that a fight had occurred there in which whites and blacks were involved, and several persons wounded. So far as obtained last night the wounded are: Bully Green, white, in the head; Felix Glens, colored, in the back; P. Colby, in the arm; F. F. Jurgens, deputy sheriff, in the leg.

Sheriff Anderson yesterday received a telegram from Deputy asking for assistance and saying that there was trouble and he was unable to control the parties, and further that he had been wounded.

Sheriff Anderson left on the first train at 10 o'clock for the scene of trouble. He was accompanied by Deputy Jim Wynne.

The cause of the trouble was not learned.

Felix Bolt was given a life sentence at Benjamin a few days ago for murder.

Boat at Galveston.

Galveston, Tex., Dec. 4.—William Hood, chief engineer Southern Pacific company, arrived in the city yesterday morning, accompanied by Engineer Boschke, in charge of the Huntington improvements of the West End flats. He went over the ground where preparation work for the three large piers is in progress and expressed himself as well pleased with the work. A large force of men will be put on in a few weeks.



"IT MUST BE A HOAX—IT CAN'T BE TRUE."

was laughing at me or him. The latter part of the time I think he really was interested."

"Talking of Laurie—I beg his pardon, Viscount Thorsbush," said Mary, "there's another letter from him for you on the mantelpiece, Bernard."

"Oh, Bruno, it's to entrust you to go! You must go!" cried Marguerite. "I find it to me, therefore a good paper," said Bernard.

"Here's a business-like document as well," observed the doctor, with his spectacles on as he took another envelope from the mantelpiece.

"Oh, take it away—I know it's a bill—it makes me feel faint!" said Bernard, feebly.

"Why, to whom do you owe money in Lincoln's Inn?" demanded the doctor, turning over the blue envelope. "Messrs. Blade and Skinner, solicitors. Who are they, Bernard?"

"Never heard of them. Give it to me," said Bernard.

The doctor tossed over the letter. It was Bernard, and alighted on Marguerite's lap. Without promission of what was to come, she lifted it, and laid it on Bernard's knees.

He was absorbed in the document's letter; but in a minute or two he gave it to Marguerite, and casually opened the blue envelope.

Marguerite, who was watching him, saw a burning flush spread over his face. He stared at the paper as if astounded, then uttered a smothered cry.

"My boy!" exclaimed his mother, looking up.

The color had left his face now—he was pale indeed.

"It must be a hoax—it can't be true," he said, hurriedly, as if he did not know what he was saying. Springing from his seat, he strode to the window, stood there a minute, reading the communication once more straight through. Then the paper fell from his fingers; he turned, leaned his arms on the window frame, and rested his head on them. Mary picked up the